

***Oxytropis campestris* (L.) DC. var. *wanapum* Joyal**
Wanapum crazyweed
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Status: State Endangered, USFWS Species of Concern
Rank: G5T1S1

General Description: A tufted perennial, 7 to 12 inches tall; herbage silvery, densely silky-pilose to villous; the leaves are 5 1/2 to 7 inches long, with 19-26 linear to narrowly oblong leaflets, 1/2 to 1 inch long, scattered sub-opposite; the corolla is pale lavender with darker penciling; the banner is obovate, 1/2 to 3/4 inch long; the wings are 1/2 to 2/3 inch long; the keel is 1/2 inch long.

Identification Tips: On the average, plants of var. *wanapum* are more robust and have a greater number of leaflets. The length of the leaves (6 1/2 inches) averages greater than those of var. *columbiana*, *cusickii*, and *gracilis*. The leaflet length (3/4 inch) likewise averages greater than those of the other three varieties. The scape length (8 inches) is also greater than the other three. The mean number of leaflets (22) is greater than var. *columbiana* and *cusickii* (15) and within the range of var. *gracilis* (17). The pale lavender flower color, while not unique in the group, is unknown among northwest members of *O. campestris*.

Phenology: The taxon flowers in May.

Range: The taxon is known only from Saddle Mountain, Grant County, WA in the Columbia Basin physiographic province.

Habitat: The taxon occurs in the big sagebrush/bluebunch wheat-grass association of Daubenmire (1970) in an open community dominated by shrubs and grasses. Associated species include gray rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), grayball sage (*Salvia doriai*), coyote mint (*Monardella odoratissima*), and cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*). Substrates consist of deep sand, derived from volcanic ash, slightly below the crest of the north facing ridge.

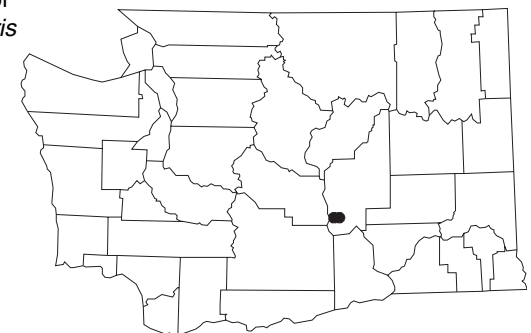
Ecology: Very little is known about the ecology of this taxon. It occurs in a harsh environment where mature individuals probably face little competition from other vegetation. The taxon's response to fire is unknown.

Oxytropis campestris* var. *wanapum
Wanapum crazyweed



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Known distribution of
Oxytropis campestris
var. *wanapum*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Oxytropis campestris* var. *wanapum

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Jim Barrett



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State Status Comments: The taxon's extremely small range, the size of the population, and the potential for incompatible land use contribute to the species' status.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory should be undertaken along Saddle Mountain as well as on all other nearby ridges.

Threats and Management Concerns: Past and potential future land uses include grazing, ORV use, mineral and gas exploration, and rock hounding. Due to the extremely limited range and the small number of individuals, maintenance of the physical integrity of the habitat is very important.

References:

Joyal, Elaine. 1990. New Variety of *Oxytropis campestris* (Fabaceae) from the Columbia Basin, Washington. *Great Basin Naturalist* 50(4): 373-377.